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PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN
FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME IV. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION
FOR DEVELOPMENT

Programme 19. Natural resources

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1(1987)).
2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.
3. The revisions proposed below modify the relevant parts of the narrative of programme 19, Natural resources, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and issued in document A/45/6/Rev.1. The revisions update the narrative on the basis of recent legislative mandates and also reflect the changes resulting from the relevant decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and from the current restructuring of the

* After adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, the complete revised medium-term plan will be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1).

Secretariat. Owing to the calendar of meetings of the Committee on Natural Resources, those revisions were not reviewed by the Committee.

4. Owing to the extensive scope of the revisions to the programme, all the paragraphs affected by the revisions are reproduced in their entirety. Changes are highlighted by placing deleted text in square brackets and by underlining added text.

5. The following text modifies paragraphs 19.1 to 19.6, 19.8 to 19.18, 19.23 to 19.26, 19.29 to 19.32, 19.38 and 19.40 to 19.45 of A/45/6/Rev.1.

A. Programme

1. General orientation

19.1 The present programme is carried out within the framework of General Assembly resolutions 32/158, 32/176, 33/194, 34/201, 40/171, 45/181 and 46/235; [and] Economic and Social Council resolutions 131 (VI), 715 A (XXVII), 814 (XXXI), 1761 (LIV), 1954 (LIX), 2014 (LXI), 2121 (LXIII), 1979/68, 1979/70, 1979/71, 1981/76 to 1981/81, 1981/91, 1985/49, 1985/50, 1985/53, 1987/7, 1989/7 and 1989/116, and decision 1992/218, and the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

19.2 The exploration, development, rational and sustainable use and effective management of a nation's natural resource endowment remain one of the essential components for the achievement of sustainable economic development and social progress. The activities in the field of natural resources will help strengthen the national capabilities to identify, explore, develop and manage effectively the non-agricultural [natural] resource sector as a critical component of sustainable national economic development and social progress within the context of permanent sovereignty over natural resources and of an integrated approach to environment and development. During the period 1992-1997 of the medium-term plan, it is essential, in an increasingly competitive and dynamic international economy, for developing countries to have the human, technological, institutional, financial and managerial capabilities [to broaden the development of their natural resource bases in order] to meet the multiple requirements for sustained and sustainable economic [growth] development and social progress.

19.3 In recent years, there has been a general improvement in mineral markets, which has led to the exploration and development of mineral resources that aim to reduce dependence of developing countries on imports of major construction materials, such as cement, glass and building stones. Efforts are required to promote investment for sustainable mineral resource development.

2. Overall strategy

19.4 The Department of [International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat] Economic and Social Development will be responsible for the implementation of the programme. The implementation will be done through the provision of assistance to developing countries; the technical cooperation activities at the country level; the preparation and timely distribution of technical publications on important developments in the sector, promoting the sharing of information and experience by the organization of the workshops, symposia and study tours; and the substantive support of specialized intergovernmental bodies.

19.5 The programme will be carried out in coordination with UNCTAD, the regional commissions and with the major funding bodies such as UNDP and the World Bank, as well as in cooperation with UNEP, the relevant programmes of other United Nations agencies such as UNIDO, FAO, WHO and UNICEF. The programme will also [support the objectives and] be guided by the [results] decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly those contained in chapters 18 and 21 of Agenda 21.

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

19.6 The programme on natural resources will consist of the following subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1. Coordination in the field of water resources

Subprogramme 2. Integrated water resources development and management

Subprogramme 3. Mineral resources

Subprogramme 4. Surveying, mapping and international cooperation in cartography

[Subprogramme 1 will be implemented by the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. Subprogrammes 2, 3 and 4 will be implemented by the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development.]

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. COORDINATION IN THE FIELD OF WATER RESOURCES

(a) Objectives

19.8 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 32/158, [and] 40/171, 45/181 and 46/235; [and] Economic and Social Council resolutions 2121 (LXIII), 1979 (68), 1985/53, 1987/7, [and]

1989/7 and 1991/85, and the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

19.9 In spite of significant progress achieved during the 1980s, neither the objectives of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, adopted by the United Nations Water Conference in 1977, nor those of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade have been fully realized. Progress concerning capabilities of countries to assess water resources has been limited. As noted in chapter 18 of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, freshwater is a finite resource, not only indispensable for the sustenance of life on Earth but also of vital importance to all socio-economic sectors. Development is not possible without considerable exploitation of water resources in relation to other land-use activities and the control of deforestation and desertification. Priority must be given to the sustenance of land/water ecosystems, with particular attention to wetlands and biodiversity, and the satisfaction of basic human needs for drinking-water, health protection and food security. For any further water utilization, freshwater resources have to be considered an economic good with an opportunity cost in alternative uses.

19.10 Institutional and legislative constraints continue to have negative effects on the development, utilization and conservation of water resources. A very large number of urban and rural poor in developing countries still lack minimum water supply and sanitation services. Increased efforts will be needed in order to expand the use of water in irrigated agriculture, increase efficiency in water use and arrest environmental effects of irrigation. Environmental degradation associated with the deterioration of water quality is becoming an increasingly serious problem both in terms of increased pollution and the inadequacy of controls. Efforts concerning the mitigation of water-related disasters have not been carried out in a systematic manner as an integral part of policy formulation and management. The extent to which water resource development contributes to economic productivity and social well-being is not usually appreciated. As indicated in chapter 18 of Agenda 21 the holistic management of freshwater as a finite and vulnerable resource, and the integration of sectoral water plans within the framework of national economic and social policy, are of paramount importance for action in the 1990s and beyond. The fragmentation of responsibilities for water resource development among sectoral agencies is proving, however, to be an even greater impediment to promoting integrated water management than had been anticipated. Effective implementation and coordination mechanisms are therefore required.

19.11 [At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly will have before it a report concerning an assessment of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/171 of 17 December 1985. Action proposals stemming from that review, as well as recommendations contained in a strategy for action for the implementation in the 1990s of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, to be adopted by the Committee on Natural Resources, will constitute the basis for action by Governments and organizations of the United Nations system during the period of the

medium-term plan.] The recommendations of the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session concerning the follow-up to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, as contained in resolution 45/181, the action proposals stemming from the Strategy for the Implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in the 1990s, the relevant provisions of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and subsequent mandates stemming from the relevant intergovernmental bodies provide the basis for action by the organizations of the United Nations system.

19.12 The objectives of the subprogramme are to promote system-wide cooperation and coordination in the field of water resources through the collection and dissemination of information of relevance to the organizations concerned and by analysing and promoting consideration of issues of an interdisciplinary nature; and to gather and analyse information concerning the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in the light of action-oriented recommendations formulated by intergovernmental bodies for consideration by those bodies at their various sessions. As called for in chapter 18 of Agenda 21, efforts should be deployed towards improving the delineation of responsibilities, division of labour and coordination of international organizations and programmes, including facilitating discussions and sharing experiences in areas related to water resource development at the global level.

(b) Course of action by the Secretariat

19.13 The promotion of cooperation and coordination among the organizations of the United Nations system will continue to be an important factor in increasing their capability to assist Governments in implementing the recommendations from intergovernmental bodies within the framework of the Mar del Plata Action Plan and Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

19.14 [In order to facilitate periodic reviews by the Committee on Natural Resources and other intergovernmental bodies, the Secretariat will continue to monitor progress by Governments and organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, in the light of action-oriented recommendations to be made by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session concerning follow-up action after the end of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, and the strategy to be adopted by the Committee on Natural Resources at its twelfth session, in 1991]. In order to facilitate periodic intergovernmental reviews, the Secretariat will coordinate the system-wide monitoring of the state of freshwater resources of the world and report accordingly to the relevant intergovernmental bodies, in the light of recommendations made by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, concerning the supply and sanitation, the Strategy for the Implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in the 1990s, and the provisions of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in accordance with the relevant recommendations and resolutions from intergovernmental bodies.

19.15 Through the ACC Inter-Secretariat Group for Water Resources, concerted approaches to the implementation of action recommendations from intergovernmental bodies will be promoted, which will involve the preparation of analyses of issues of an interdisciplinary nature and of proposals for system-wide action, as well as the collection of information on activities of the organizations of the system in the field of water resources. [Cooperative arrangements will be continued concerning drinking-water supply and sanitation, following the end of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade.] Emphasis will be placed on the formulation and realization of cooperative arrangements for action concerning the Strategy for the Implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in the 1990s, and for carrying out the recommendations of Agenda 21. In the light of the achievements of the Collaborative Council for Water Supply and Sanitation, further efforts will be made to expand consultative arrangements with international and national governmental and non-governmental organizations, and the scientific community, in order to enhance the integrated development and management of water resources. A coordinated approach to the collection and analysis of information will be promoted, bearing in mind the call by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to achieve more cost-effective and relevant data collection and assessment by better identification of user; to strengthen local, provincial, national and international capacity to collect and use multisectoral information; to develop or strengthen means of ensuring that planning for sustainable development in all sectors is based on timely, reliable and usable information; and to make relevant information accessible in the form of and at the time required to facilitate its use. Attention will also be given to promoting cooperation for enhancing public awareness, including the planning and implementation of special events as may be appropriate.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

(a) Objectives

19.16 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 32/158, 44/228 and 45/181, [and] Economic and Social Council resolutions 2121 (LXIII), 1979/70, 1981/80, 1981/81, 1985/49, 1985/50, 1987/7 and 1991/85, and the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

19.17 [Adequate mobilization and management of the financial, technological and human resources needed for water development and conservation are closely related to institutional factors. Yet, recent assessments indicate persistent difficulties in planning, legal and institutional arrangements. Inadequate institutional structures hamper increased community and private sector participation in resource mobilization, and often neglect local operation and maintenance activities. It is necessary to involve the women of the community, as the main managers of water supply and sanitation facilities, in the planning, design, operation and maintenance of such facilities. Water

legislation needs to be more flexible to improve allocation efficiency, to protect the resource base and to ensure equitable policies for cost recovery.] With regard to water resources specifically, Agenda 21 stresses the fact that:

"The widespread scarcity, gradual destruction and aggravated pollution of freshwater resources in many world regions, along with the progressive encroachment of incompatible activities, demand integrated resources planning and management. Such integration must cover all types of interrelated freshwater bodies, including both surface and groundwater, and duly consider water quantity and quality aspects. The multisectoral nature of water resource development in the context of socio-economic development must be recognized, as well as the multi-interest utilization of water resources for water supply and sanitation, agriculture, industry, urban development, hydropower generation, inland fisheries, transportation, recreation, low- and flat-lands management and other activities".

Agenda 21 also states that prevailing systems for decision-making in many countries tend to separate economic, social and environmental factors at the policy planning and the management level. An adjustment, or even fundamental reshaping of the decision-making, in the light of country-specific conditions, may be necessary if environment and development is to be put at the centre of economic and political decision-making, in effect achieving a full integration of these factors.

19.18 [There is a need for increased knowledge about the availability of water resources, particularly in the case of groundwater, and an increasingly urgent need to monitor groundwater utilization and changes in water quality.] Agenda 21 recognized that Governments, in cooperation, where appropriate, with international organizations, should strengthen national institutional capability to integrate social, economic, developmental and environmental issues at all levels of development decision-making and implementation. Attention should be given to moving away from narrow sectoral approaches, progressing towards full cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation. It further recommended that environmentally integrated, enforceable laws and regulations should be based upon social, ecological, economic and scientific principles. It is equally critical to develop workable programmes to review and enforce compliance with the laws, regulations and standards that are adopted. Technical support may be needed for many countries to accomplish these goals. Technical cooperation requirements in this field include legal information, advisory services and specialized training and institutional capacity building.

19.23 The main objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To assist developing countries through technical cooperation activities in order to strengthen their capacity to collect and analyse data on surface and groundwater resources;

(b) To improve water use efficiency through better planning and allocation of scarce water resources and through conservation measures;

(c) To provide on-the-job training to middle-level technicians and drillers and to users, especially women, in village-level operation and maintenance;

(d) To monitor or introduce to developing countries current technological options for the assessment, data storage and retrieval and development of water resources, both conventional and non-conventional;

(e) To prepare up-to-date technical publications and manuals on issues of concern to water specialists in the fields of groundwater assessment, international river and lake-basin development, water-planning, management economics and legislation;

(f) To promote a dynamic, interactive, iterative and multisectoral approach to water resource management, including the identification and protection of potential sources of freshwater supply, that integrates technological, socio-economic, environmental and human health considerations;

(g) To assist developing countries in planning for the sustainable and rational utilization, protection, conservation and management of water priorities within the framework of national economic development policy;

(h) To assist developing countries in designing, implementing and evaluating projects and programmes that are both economically efficient and socially appropriate within clearly defined strategies, based on an approach of full participation, including that of women, youth, indigenous people and local communities in water management, policy-making and decision-making;

(i) To identify and strengthen or develop, as required, in particular in developing countries, the appropriate institutional, legal and financial mechanisms to ensure that water policy and its implementation are a catalyst for sustainable economic development and social progress.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

19.24 Priority will be given to improving the knowledge of the availability of water resources, especially groundwater, and institutional strengthening, based on interdisciplinary approaches, including technical, legislative and economic aspects. In particular, development of specialized working tools, such as groundwater software for microcomputers used in assessment and planning, will be addressed. Economic, environmental and legal elements will be considered in terms of their structural role (how they promote development and conservation), while their regulatory components will be related to the main objectives of development and environment. That will be implemented in the context of chapter 18 of Agenda 21, which calls for both the integration of measures for the protection of potential sources of freshwater supply, including the inventorying of water resources, and the development of

interactive databases, forecasting models, economic planning models and methods for water management and planning, including environmental impact assessment methods.

19.25 Support for the improvement of knowledge will be provided through the dissemination of information concerning surface and groundwater resources and on technological developments of relevance to developing countries. Continued support will be offered for carrying out surveys, pre-investment surveys, and groundwater exploration and development. In chapter 18 of Agenda 21, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development also called for the dissemination of operational guidelines, the promotion of education for water users, including the consideration by the United Nations of a World Water Day, and support for the application of new techniques, such as geographical information systems and expert systems to gather, assimilate, analyse and display multisectoral information and to optimize decision-making.

19.26 Emphasis will be placed on better utilization of existing supplies of vulnerable and scarce water resources through programmes related to reductions in wastage, leak detection and repair, and control of excess irrigation usage, as well as through management of demand to cover reasonable levels of use according to available supply. Moreover, the preservation of existing water quality through effective economic and legal policies is considered a top priority. [Likewise, increased attention should be given to multi-purpose water resource development.] In addition, chapter 18 of Agenda 21 calls for the development of new and alternative sources of water supply and low-cost water technologies, which will require innovative applied research, including international scientific research cooperation. This will involve the transfer, adaptation and diffusion of new techniques and technologies among developing countries, as well as the development of endogenous capacity for dealing with the added dimension of integrating engineering, environmental and social aspects of water resource management and predicting the effects in terms of human impact.

19.29 The monitoring of progress and the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan and of chapter 18 of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including the monitoring of progress in providing drinking-water supply and sanitation services to the urban and rural poor, following the end of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, will continue to be an essential element of the work of the Secretariat.

19.30 The further implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan and of chapter 18 of Agenda 21, as well as system-wide action concerning drinking-water supply and sanitation, will continue to require close cooperation and coordination of efforts among the organizations of the United Nations system concerned. Continued support will be given to the ACC Inter-Secretariat Group for Water Resources, to the ACC Task Force on Sustainable Development, as well as to cooperative arrangements concerning drinking-water supply and sanitation following the end of the Decade.

SUBPROGRAMME 3: MINERAL RESOURCES

(a) Objectives

19.31 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 32/176, 33/194, 34/201 and 46/235; [and] Economic and Social Council resolutions 1761 (LIV), 1954 (LIX), 2014 (LXI), 1979/71, 1981/76 to 1981/79 and 1988/91, and the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

19.32 During the early 1980s, a structural change had occurred in the international market for mineral raw materials, resulting in substantially lower consumption growth rates in the major user countries as compared to previous decades. This shift has had profound implications for those developing countries which are heavily reliant on minerals as a constituent of their gross domestic products and as an element in their balance of payments. Many developing countries have strengthened their institutions responsible for basic geological investigations, mineral exploration, technical and economic evaluation of mineral projects, legislative and administrative regulation of the mineral resources sector, and the investment promotion and negotiations with foreign investors. Knowledge of the resource endowment has increased in most countries, personnel has been trained in both the public and private sectors, investment has been attracted for exploration, development of mines and processing facilities and rehabilitation of existing installations, and new mineral development regulations and strategies have been introduced. There has recently been a considerable increase in prices for most minerals and metals as a result of a rise in consumption growth. As a consequence, stock levels decreased for some minerals and metals and shortages developed for some others. Some activities in the mining industry may have an adverse environmental impact, particularly as generators of solid and/or toxic waste. Hence, the implementation of this subprogramme needs to take into account the relevant provisions of chapter 21 of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

19.38 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To assist developing countries to strengthen their capacities to explore, develop and manage effectively their mineral resources in an effective and sustainable way;

(b) To assist developing countries in strengthening their capacity to ensure their permanent sovereignty over natural resources;

(c) To ensure a continuous flow of information to Member States on the prospects for, trends on and development in selected minerals and in the international minerals sector for decision-making, including identification of financing and investment requirements;

(d) To cooperate with other international organizations and development agencies in efforts to promote the transfer of technology, and especially

environmentally sound technology, to developing countries, in particular, the least developed countries;

(e) To assist developing countries in effectively integrating environmental considerations into mineral resource-related activities; such assistance would include the promotion of adequate controls in the transport of solid waste, the promotion of environmentally sound waste disposal and reuse, and, in general, the promotion of scientific and technological work aimed at minimizing the adverse impact of mineral resource-related activities on the environment.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

19.40 Generally, activities include close coordination of technical cooperation activities, research in support of such activities, dissemination of information on managerial, economic, environmental, technical and social progress in all fields within the mineral resource sector, and probably most important, strengthening of institutions in developing countries and training of personnel at all levels.

19.41 More specifically, future programmes will address the supply-demand balance for metals and minerals, the role of minerals in economic growth and sustainable development in developing countries, opportunities for international cooperation in the minerals field, problems of rational management of mineral resources, direct and efficient involvement of countries in all aspects of resource development and strengthening of indigenous capabilities to assure increasing self-reliance of the developing countries. Activities will include:

(a) Continuous monitoring of consumption, production, stocks and prices of the major mineral raw materials;

(b) Assessments of long-term trends in mineral sector development (including investment, financing and utilization);

(c) Systematic efforts to identify emerging problem areas and issues involving minerals;

(d) Identification of the macroeconomic and international trade implications of evolutionary changes and structural shifts within the minerals sector;

(e) Review and preparation of mineral policies and mining codes of developing countries, assistance in investment and other contract negotiations, financing arrangements, investment promotion and training in computer-supported negotiation techniques;

(f) Manpower development/training of technicians and professionals for mineral programmes in all areas of mineral development;

- (g) Detailed geochemical mapping;
- (h) Detailed ground and airborne geophysical surveys;
- (i) Preliminary feasibility studies: drilling, mineral sampling and analysis, mineral exploration, reserve and grade estimation, economic evaluation and benefits;
- (j) Feasibility studies and investment promotion: technical feasibility and mineral marketing studies, preparation of bankable documents for investment negotiations;
- (k) Establishment of computerized documentation system/data centres;
- (l) Mineral right/concession/title computerization;
- (m) Mineral development planning;
- (n) Non-metallic mineral and construction material evaluation and development;
- (o) Upgrading chemical laboratory and other support facilities for mineral exploration;
- (p) Reorganization, streamlining and rehabilitation of government mineral organizations and State enterprise management;
- (q) Organization of workshops, seminars and symposia, as required;
- (r) Technical advice on small-scale mining (regulations, technical assistance);
- (s) Assessment of the environmental impact of mineral development programmes and projects;
- (t) Technical advice and assistance to developing countries in addressing environment-related problems in mineral development.

SUPROGRAMME 4. SURVEYING, MAPPING AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN CARTOGRAPHY

(a) Objectives

19.42 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from Economic and Social Council resolutions 131 (VI), 715 A (XXVII), 814 (XXXI) and 1989/116, and the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

19.43 Topographic base maps and nautical and bathymetric charts are needed prior to exploration of mineral and other natural resources; they are

essential for the infrastructure of any country and are continually used also as a base for statistical and administrative data and for planned urban development. Their derivatives, thematic maps, provide an economically viable aid in land use and in the assessment of governmental income from land (cadastral surveying and land information systems); they provide a valuable tool for the collection and analysis of environmental data; their assistance to land, air and sea transportation is also evident (aeronautical and hydrographic charting). There is a lack of technical personnel, training facilities, modern equipment and maintenance facilities and, above all, a lack of knowledge in new fields, such as the use of satellites for geodesy and remote sensing, and the new mapping production techniques. In particular the role of global positioning systems and of geographic information systems is to be stressed, as well as the growing importance of digital databases. At the international level, cooperation is needed for greater efficiency in the preparation of regional maps, the standardization of geographical names and the exchange of new technologies - especially, whenever possible, among developing countries.

19.44 The objective of the subprogramme is to assist Governments, particularly those of developing countries, in the application of the latest technology in cartographic data acquisition, compilation, storage and presentation as a tool for planning sustainable economic and social development and in strengthening or establishing various cartographic, cadastral and hydrographic services, including geographical name authorities.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

19.45 The activities of the subprogramme include promoting the exchange of technical knowledge and experience and providing support for technical cooperation activities. Substantive servicing of United Nations conferences on cartography and geographic names, scheduled for the medium-term plan period, will be provided. Information will also continue to be provided to Governments on the latest applications and technological developments in remote sensing relevant to the exploration of natural resources, to the development of coastal areas, as well as to environmental assessment. Particular attention will be devoted to assisting developing countries in strengthening their capacities to interpret and effectively utilize remotely sensed data. The collaboration of conference and library services will be sought, as appropriate.
